

KARO-ECHO Minutes March 12, 2018  
Kensington Community Center

Meeting convened at 7:30 PM by President Hal Graboske, KK6NDF  
Also present: Kevin KI6KNP, Jamuel KM6HBO, Rob K6RJM, Diane KK6RED, David KJ6AAT, KJ6WSS Jay, KK6ZPM Karen, Don, NI6A

The February minutes were approved.

Hal presented a survey of the installed communications equipment located at served agency locations: i.e., Fire stations 71, 72, 65, the EOC, Harding School, Hilltop school, Kensington Community Center, EC Senior Center, Tassajara Park, and stored portable locations.

Hal announced planning is underway for a Simulated Emergency Test this summer.

Hal mentioned the benefit of the KE Newsletter. Don brought up the need for a newsletter editor.

Of Needs: Recruitment

A discussion on the difficulties of simplex operation due to our unique KE topography

### **Old business:**

Report on NALCO. NALCO trained the KE group for FRS. NALCO is giving tours of all 8 of their Fire Department stations (one tour each month). They offer classes on message handling, batteries, efficient net operation, etc. Berkeley is completing their MESH system city wide (digital network on 2 GHz).

Berkeley CERT has a GMRS repeater system on-line with a weekly net that will be designed to link all their neighborhoods to liaison FRS with GMRS, where GMRS will then be able to link distant neighborhoods to supply needed communications, personnel, and equipment.

### **New Business:**

Hal reported that EBARC is teaching a new ham technician/General class beginning April 6 that will culminate in an exam. April 6, 2018 and ending June 8. The class will meet each Friday from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, on Argyle Rd. off Appian Way in El Sobrante. Textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 3rd Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830 or email: ko6no@comcast.net to register by April 5, 2018.

Karen announced that Jay will be presenting a free FRS/GMRS class at the Richmond Senior Center in March.

Since longtime KARO-ECHO stalwart, Ginny Summerer, has moved to Assisted Living housing in Oakland, a motion to present her with a service award was approved unanimously.

We need volunteers for the Thursday **Night Net Manager**, **Newsletter Editor**, and **Recruitment/Outreach/PR Manager**, **Fixed Site Equipment Maintenance Manager**, and **WIKI/Webpage manager**. Rob indicated interest in managing the WIKI/Web pages and/or PR/Outreach.

Don brought up that there was no follow-up meeting after the October 2016 ham meeting at the recreation center on Arlington where many hams volunteered to participate in various committees/work groups.

Hal, described the main responsibilities of CERT and discussed their communications needs when cell phone, internet, and power is down. What would be the ham and/or GMRS interface and job?

Karen, Jay, and David discussed Richmond's CERT and EOC ham communication needs..

Kevin reported on the establishment of a portable go-kit including a portable high-gain antenna, portable tripod stand/mast, coax/transmission line, emergency power, and dual band radio capable of operating anywhere in Kensington/El Cerrito. Also a cache of mobile magnet mount antennas and mobile radio equipment

The repair of the broken microphone at FS 72 was mentioned. Jamuel subsequently repaired the microphone.

An additional monthly on-the-air KARO-ECHO meeting in a round robin type format is being contemplated for the future.

Don, attempted a short review of the first seven chapters of the KARO-ECHO Field Operations Handbook (the first 16 pages). The first 5 chapters were completed before adjourning.

Alerting, net operation, go-kits, portable operation, the difference between Resource, Tactical, and Command nets were delineated. How and why an efficient directed net operates. The use of tactical callsigns instead of FCC callsigns. The history and reason of the Incident Command System (ICS). The use of message forms like form ICS 213 and the ARRL radiogram form. The use of the phonetic alphabet. Repeater operation (how it works) versus simplex. If the repeater is down, transmit on the output frequency. Universal principles of disaster communications. The use of efficient, unambiguous language, and accurate communications. Authenticate all messages (all messages must have a signature and title). Don't repeat rumors (or speculate, but ask for confirmation). When NOT to use written

messages. The different types of message precedencies such as Emergency, Priority, Welfare, and Routine. Of course, handle Emergency traffic first, then priority traffic. Handling OUTGOING Health and Welfare traffic if time permits. Check the field operations handbook for precedence definitions. Net Control decides who and where the traffic is passed by moving stations off the primary tactical frequency to a secondary frequency. More Net Control procedures were discussed. Next meeting the glossary chapter 7 will be covered as well as the use of the appendices. Chapter 7 will be presented at a future date, as it is more advanced.

See: HYPERLINK "http://www.cleanenergyspace.com/KAROECHOHandbook.doc" \t "\_blank" <http://www.cleanenergyspace.com/KAROECHOHandbook.doc> for the KARO-ECHO Field Operations Handbook

KARO/ECHO How to Work a Directed Net (as above) Click here HYPERLINK "http://www.cleanenergyspace.com/DirectedNCSOperations.doc" \t "\_blank" <http://www.cleanenergyspace.com/DirectedNCSOperations.doc>

Meeting was adjourned at 2105 hours.